THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The quantum of money spent during the last three years as subsidies on food, fertilizer and petroleum is given below:

Explicit subsidies of the Central Government

(Rupees crore)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Provisional Actuals)
Food Subsidy	23077	24014	31328
Fertiliser subsidy	18460	26222	32490
Petroleum subsidy	2683	2699	2820

Source : 1. Expenditure Budget Volume I 2. Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c) A study by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission regarding Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which covered 18 States reveals that though the offtake per household has shown improvement under TPDS, yet only about 57 per cent of the BPL households are covered by it. Further the report finds that only about 42 per cent of the subsidized grains issued by the Central Pool reaches the target groups. Based on evaluation studies and feedback received from States, a nine point action plan has been jointly formulated by the Central and the State/UT Governments, in 2006-07, to strengthen the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). These include regular reviews of the BPL and Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) lists to ensure coverage of eligible families, involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Public Distribution System (PDS) operations, use of information technology, creating awareness among public about PDS operations, etc.

(d) The following are the major steps taken to create jobs in tribal and rural areas to bridge inter-regional imbalances and economic disparities:

- The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme guarantees wage employment of 100 days, in a financial year, to each household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled work. The scheme has proved an important measure of empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It has been extended to all 596 rural districts in the Union Budget 2008-09.
- Financial support to Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries/ entrepreneurs in the form of term loans and micro credit at concessional rate of interest for income generating activities.
- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) is engaged in marketing development of tribal products and their retail marketing through its sale outlets.

Farmers' loan waiving scheme

1633. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and medium category farmers, who have been benefited under the Farmers' Loans Waiving Scheme and the amount of loan so far waived off, category-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the number of such farmers and the amount by which they still have outstanding loans, category-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State-wise details of farmer beneficiaries (category-wise), including the total eligible Waiver/Relief amount under ADWDRS is at the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ 1612, Part (b)]

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Implementation of the loan waiver scheme

1634. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loan waiver scheme announced in Budget 2008 has been implemented in full;

(b) if so, the details of the beneficiaries benefited from the loan waiver schemes so far, State-wise;

(c) the details of loan amount that has been waived so far, State-wise: and

(d) the details of the amount that has been reimbursed to the banks/financial institutions so far by the Central Government on account of loan waiver?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of farmer beneficiaries, including the total eligible Waiver/Relief amount, under ADWDRS is at the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ 1612, Part (b)]

(d) The Government has already released Rs.25,000 crore to RBI (Rs.17,500 crore for Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks and Rs.7,500 crore for Scheduled Commercial Banks, Urban Cooperative Banks and Local Area Banks). The balance reimbursable claims would be released in July 2009, July 2010 and the remaining balance, if any, in July 2011. The Government has also decided to pay interest on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th instalments of the reimbursable claims.

Interest rates of home loans charged by private banks

1635. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain private sector banks at present apply the increased rates of interest on home loans uniformly irrespective of the amounts of the advances involved whereas the public sector banks apply the increase rates only to those advances above a particular limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date;

(c) whether Government proposes to direct the private sector banks to adopt the same norms as that of the public sector banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and